This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   ~~For use by a read/write machine, a~~ A method for assigning a unique label to a storage medium, the method comprising:

        a)   determining whether ~~or not~~ the storage medium has been assigned a unique volume label and a unique storage medium label, the unique storage medium label uniquely identifying the storage medium;

        b)   if the storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume label and a unique storage medium label, then

            (i)   determining a unique storage medium label for the storage medium,

            (ii)   determining a unique volume label for the storage medium,

            (iii)   writing the unique volume label onto the storage medium, and

            (iv)   providing a command to generate a label based on the unique storage medium label, the label to be associated with the storage medium; and

        c)   updating a database based on files, if any, added to or deleted from the storage medium.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

        d)   synchronizing the database with a database on a device apart from the read/write machine.

3. (Original)   The method of claim 2 wherein the read/write machine is a personal computer and the device is a handheld device. Carried out on a read/write machine.

4. (Original)   The method of claim 3 wherein the device is an untethered handheld device. The read/write machine is a handheld device.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein the label based on the unique storage medium label is a bar code label.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the act of determining a unique volume label is based, at least in part, on state information accessible to the read/write machine.

8. (Original)   The method of claim 7 wherein the state information is a count sequence.

9. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the database includes records, each record including a first field having a value associated with the unique volume label, and a second field having a value associated with a file stored on the storage medium.

10. (Previously presented)   A method of claim 1, further comprising:

        d)   accepting information read from a label associated with the storage medium without reading the storage medium;

        e)   converting the accepted information into a database key;

        f)   requesting records from a database instance using the database key;

        g)   accepting records in response to the request; and

        h)   rendering information about the accepted records.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the label associated with the storage medium is a bar code and wherein the information read from the label is accepted from a bar code scanner.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the information about the accepted records rendered includes file names.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the accepted information read from a label associated with the storage medium is read by a handheld device, and the information about the accepted records is rendered on the handheld device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the read label is converted into a database key by the handheld device, the records are requested from a database instance using the database key by the handheld device, and the records are accepted in response to the request by the handheld device.

15. (Previously presented)   A method for matching file parameters with one or more storage media, each of the one or more storage media having an associated label, the method comprising:

       a)   accepting one or more search parameters selected from a group of parameters consisting of (A) file name, (B) file size, (C) file author, and (D) file type;

       b)   generating a query based on the search parameters;

       c)   accepting one or more records returned in response to the query generated;

       d)   rendering information associated with each of the one or more records accepted, the information rendered being related to the label associated with the storage medium storing one or more files identified with the one or more records accepted.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the labels are machine to readable labels, the method further comprising:

       e)   accepting information read from the machine to readable labels;

       f)   if the accepted information read from the machine to readable labels matches information associated with any one of the one or more records accepted, then generating a first indicator, said first indicator able to be perceived by humans.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

       g)   if the accepted information read from the machine to readable labels does not match information associated with any one of the one or more records accepted, then generating a second indicator, said second indicator able to be perceived by humans.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the first indicator is a first audible sound, and the second indicator is a second audible sound.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein each of the labels include human to readable part, and wherein the information associated with each of the one or more records accepted corresponds to the human to readable part of the labels.

20. (Currently Amended)   An apparatus for assigning a unique label to a removable storage medium, the apparatus comprising:

        a)   means for reading files from and/or writing files to a removable storage medium;

        b)   means for generating a label;

        c)   means for determining whether ~~or not~~ the removable storage medium has been assigned a unique volume label and a unique storage medium label, the unique storage medium label uniquely identifying the storage medium;

        d)   means, if the storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume label and unique storage medium label, for

        (i)   determining a unique storage medium label,

        (ii)   determining a unique volume label,

        (iii)   instructing the means for reading and/or writing files to write the unique volume label onto the storage medium, and

        (iv)   providing a command to generate a label based on the unique storage medium label , to the means for generating a label; and

        e)   a database, wherein the database is updated based on files added to or deleted from the removable storage medium.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising: f) means for synchronizing the database with a database on a device apart from the apparatus.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the device is a handheld device.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the device is an untethered, handheld device.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the means for reading files from and/or writing files to a removable storage medium are at least one of (a) a floppy disk drive, (b) a CD ROM drive, (c) a ZIP drive, and (d) a DVD drive.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the label is a bar code label.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising: f) state information, wherein the unique volume label is determined, at least in part, based on the state information.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the state information is a count sequence.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the database includes records, each record including a first field having a value associated with the unique volume label, and a second field having a value associated with a file stored on the removable storage medium.

29. (Previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:

  f) means for reading a label associated with the storage medium without reading the storage medium;

  g) means for accepting information read, by the means for reading, from a label associated with the storage medium;

  h) means for converting the read label into a database key;

  i) means for requesting records from a database instance using the database key;

  j) means for accepting records in response to the request; and

  k) means for rendering information about the accepted records.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the means for reading is a bar code scanner, and wherein the label associated with the storage medium is a bar code.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the information about the accepted records rendered includes file names.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the means for rendering is a display.

33. (Previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising:

      l)   the database.

34. (Previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 33 further comprising:

      m)   means for synchronizing the database with a database maintained by a separate machine which created the storage medium.

35. (Previously presented)   An apparatus for matching file parameters with one or more storage media, each of the one or more storage media having an associated label, the apparatus comprising:

      a)   a user input for accepting one or more search parameters selected from a group of parameters selected from a group of parameters consisting of (A) file name, (B) file size, (C) file author, and (D) file type;

      b)   means for generating a query based on the accepted one or more search parameters;

      c)   means for accepting one or more records returned in response to the query generated;

      d)   means for rendering information associated with each of the one or more records accepted, the information rendered being related to the label associated with the storage medium storing one or more files identified with the one or more records accepted, wherein the label is provided on the storage medium without storing it on the storage medium.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the labels are machine to readable labels, the apparatus further comprising:

      e)   a label reader for reading information read from the machine to readable labels; and

f)   an output means for generating a first indicator able to be perceived by humans if the accepted information read from the machine to readable labels matches information associated with any one of the one or more records accepted.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the output means further generates a second indicator able to be perceived by humans if the accepted information read from the machine to readable labels does not match information associated with any one of the one or more records accepted.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the output means is a speaker, wherein the first indicator is a first audible sound, and wherein the second indicator is a second audible sound.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35 wherein each of the labels include human to readable part, and wherein the information associated with each of the one or more records accepted corresponds to the human to readable part of the labels.

40. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein if the storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume label and a unique storage medium label then further,
-       generating a label based on the unique storage medium label, and
-       fixing the generated label to the storage medium without storing it on the storage medium.

41. (Previously presented)   The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising means, if the storage medium has not been assigned a unique volume label and a unique storage medium label for
-       generating a label based on the unique storage medium label, and
-       fixing the generated label to the storage medium without storing it on the storage medium.

42. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 15 wherein the information rendered is related to the label associated with the storage medium storing one or more files identified with the one or more records accepted such that a user or a scanner can distinguish the storage medium including the label from other storage media.

43. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

       d)   updating the database based on files deleted from the storage medium.